



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Striped Bass Addendum V Public Hearing Document Available for Public Review and Comment

Washington, D.C. – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission announced today the availability of the Public Hearing Document for Addendum V to Amendment 5 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass for public review and comment. Specifically, Addendum V provides options for states to either maintain their current striped bass fishery regulations or implement regulations similar to those in 1998/1999 for 2001, and possibly 2002. Some states may schedule public meetings in late October/early November to gather public comment on the Addendum. Details on the public meetings will be released once the meetings have been finalized.

Currently, striped bass is managed through Addendum IV to the FMP, which required states to implement at least a 14 percent reduction in fishing mortality on age 8 and older fish for 2000. Additionally, Addendum IV stipulated that states would have to implement additional restrictions in 2001 if the target fishing mortality rate on older fish had not been met in 2000. The Addendum did not account for the possibility that the estimates of 1998 fishing mortality would be substantially reduced. The latest assessment indicates that the fishing mortality on older fish, as well as the entire population, is at the target established in Amendment 5.

The Public Hearing Draft of Addendum V contains options for striped bass management during 2001 and 2002. The options include allowing the states to maintain their current management measures or requiring the states to implement measures that are equivalent to the measures that were in place during 1998/1999. The Public Hearing Draft also includes options to implement Addendum V for a one or two year period.

The Management Board will meet on November 29, 2000 to review public comment and make a final decision on Addendum V. Copies of the Public Hearing Document for Addendum V can be obtained by either contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, or via the Commission's Webpage under "Public Input" at www.asmfc.org. Public comment will be accepted until November 18, 2000 and should be forwarded to Robert Beal, Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 Eye Street, N.W., Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax). For more information, please contact Robert Beal at (202) 289-6400, ext. 318.

NOTE TO PRESS: If you would like to receive the Commission's press releases via email or fax, please contact Tina Berger, Public Affairs & Resource Specialist, at tberger@asmfc.org or fax to (202)289-6051.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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